

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02975 141025Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 CU-04 ACDA-12 /094 W
-----001589 141041Z /20

R 140907Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3897
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMXMASBY BERLIN 043
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBEKSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONUL
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BELGRADE ALSO FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE, CZ, SHUM
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77: MORE ON TRIAL OF FOUR: PROSECUTION OF
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MRS. KOHOUT

REF PRAGUE 2912

1. SINCE REFTTEL PREPARED WE HAVE GAINED SMALL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF ORNEST, LEDERER, HAVEL
AND PAVLICEK. TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO LAST THREE DAYS -- OCTOBER

17-19. CHARTER CIRCLES DIFFER ON SEVERITY OF THE SENTENCES BEING SOUGHT. SOME SOURCES AGREE WITH 10 YEAR AND 3 YEAR SENTENCES REPORTED IN REFTEL AND WITH SURMISE THAT REGIME INTENT IS TO PRESSURE DEFENDENTS TO CHOSE EXILE: OTHERS CLAIM THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ESPECIALLY HARSH SENTENCES WILL BE SOUGHT AND THAT THE DEFENDENTS WOULD "NEVER ACCEPT EXILE". WHILE AWAITING TRIAL HAVEL AND PAVLICEK APPEAR TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY-PAVLICEK EXPECTS TO ATTEND A SOCIAL EVENT AT THE HOME OF ANOTHER CHARTER SIGNER OCTOBER 14.

2. FRG AMBASSADOR DIESEL ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY RUNGE RECENTLY VISITED PLAYWRIGHT AND CHARTER SIGNER PAVEL KOHOUT AT HIS COUNTRY HOME. KOHOUT TOLD THEM THAT HIS WIFE IS TO BE PROSECUTED ON CHARGES OF ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN AND INCITING A DISTURBANCE BASED ON HER JANUARY SCUFFLE WITH POLICE TAKING HER FROM HER HOME FOR QUESTIONING (PRAGUE 0118). KOHOUT SAYS THE PROSECUTOR WILL SEEK A 5-10 YEAR PRISON TERM, BUT CHARGES WILL BE DROPPED IF THE KOHOUTS ACCEPT EXILE. KOHOUT ALLEGES THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO IMMIGRATE BUT WILL FIGHT HER CASE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL PRESS.

3. COMMENT: SPECULATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS TO THE REASON FOR THE CHOICE OF TIMING OF THE TRIAL OF THE FOUR TO COINCIDE WITH THE EARLY STAGES OF BELGRADE II HAS SO FAR FAILED TO REACH ANY CONSENSUS. WE CONTINUE TO LEAN TOWARD THE IDEA THAT THE REGIME HAS CONCLUDED THAT ITS DOMESTIC CONCERNS (1..3., LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WARNING CHARTER SUPPORTERS AGAINST AN ATTEMPT TO USE THE OCCASION OF BELGRADE II FOR A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO GAIN SYMPATHY) OUTWEIGH THE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE THE TRIALS WILL DO TO ITS ALREADY SHODDY INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, CHARTER 77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE02975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770377-0088
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771059/aaaabydx.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dadfc02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 2912
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 914544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARTER 77: MORE ON TRIAL OF FOUR: PROSECUTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: SHUM, CZ, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dadfc02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009